

Aire & Worth Deanery Synod Report

(for Christ Church & St. John's Newsholme APCM held on Zoom. 15th November 2020)

(Meeting held on Zoom, 4th February 2020) 12 members of clergy, 24 laity, and 6 visitors were present.

Developing work with children and young people:

Examples of what each parish was currently doing in the community or as a church. Identifying any challenges faced.

- **Messy Church. Recently established**

at St. Peter's Shipley (Jess Criddle). Held monthly 3.30-5.45 Sunday – 20 min. play – 45 mins table-based activities inc crafts – games – reflective – go at own pace – 30 min celebration time inc songs – bible story – creative prayer – end with meal.

Jess described experience as hard work – relentless – needs team willing to help prepare, set up and clear away – clear vision of achievement aims essential – ensure that is communicated to all volunteers – committed team essential for success – prepared for hard work – know doing so in God's strength.

Encouraging that families have returned month after month and inviting new families along.

- **Messy Church – Established for 9 years**

at St. Mary's Riddlesden (Rev Gareth Howles). Held at local school monthly on Thursday for 90 mins. Between 20-45 attendees. Begin with drink – bible story – songs – crafts on the theme – brief recap – a meal.

Key requirement – dedicated team – planning gets easier and delegation of tasks shares the load – team meets once to plan share out tasks and to pray for next service. Congregation in its own right that has recently celebrated a baptism. Special events held twice a year (Good Friday and Christmas). Provision has helped bridge gap – one family attends church weekly.

Gareth describes as hard work – time consuming but worthwhile.

- **X-Cite** (leader Daniel Mosby).

Ecumenical event run by local churches – supported by Scripture Union – aims to be safe, fun for children aged 7 to Year 7 to explore faith. Aims to bridge gap between church and schools work – links children from different churches – builds on what they do – training and networking tool for children's ministry and volunteers.

Events are high energy – high quality – gives children evidence to help them decide their beliefs – work in small groups with a leader – meets bi-monthly on Saturdays from 6-8pm. – hold Easter Holiday Club – and annual residential event – team is developing X:Cite plus for years 7-11.

Over 300 attended events – 40% boys – 41% non-identified as part of a church – 16 churches involved – event costs £2000 – 34 young people made a lifetime commitment – individuals get involved by praying for X:Cite – volunteering – donating – visiting or doing similar event. Contact www.xcitekeighley.org.uk.

- **Rewind** (Adam Robinson). Mission apprentice in Keighley.

3 ReWind projects taking Christian message to schools – 3 ReWind events per year, Easter, Christmas and FastForward – hosted in a church – up to 120 children from local schools – intended for Year 7 at secondary – work in groups – participate in games – bible story – do crafts.

To help churches establish relationships with schools. Volunteers are the most important resource – expenses relate to booklets and craft activities.

- **Family Worship** (Rev. Sandra Benham).

Established successful all age worship service replacing a monthly family service with communion in a traditional setting. Trialled service for Harvest PCC agreed that family worship would be the main service on the first Sunday each month – emphasises importance that church family learns to worship together – older members of congregation still attend – order of service printed (no projector) – age appropriate wording – time for children and adults to move around – crafts – prayer stations – musical instruments – dramatized stories. Also adult focussed activities can be done in the pews.

125 congregation members, 46 were children. Adults can be challenged by children. Congregation for this service still growing.

(Meeting held on Zoom, 12th October 2020) 41 members participated

Nurturing Lay Discipleship:

One of 5 priorities of the diocesan strategy. (Without this the other goals are less achievable). – discussed how own parishes are working towards this priority – identified areas of training that would help in nurturing discipleship.

- **Resources and Training Opportunities**

(Sharon Bavington explained her role) – equip, enable, help everyone participate in training at an appropriate level – help parishes grow leaders – equip people appropriately.

- **Digital Learning Platform:**

More details about online Lay Training Courses can be found here:

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/about/lay-training/>

The courses can be viewed here:

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/courses/?term=4>

“Reimagining Church”:

- Synod watched and discussed the presentation "**Reimagining Church**". Using inspiration from Acts of the Apostles
- **Dynamic Worship** – by Rev Sophie Jelley.
- **Making Contact with our community** – by Bishop Philip North. Having a strong presence in our parish.
- Webinar can be viewed on YouTube following this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGMQobjKxzk>

The next meeting for the Deanery Synod is on 9th February 2021

Lynn Stow & Sharon Quinn

Nov 2020